 Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

     1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of providing object-based content to be reported in an external computer-implemented general reporting application, the method comprising:

     providing [[a]] an electronic storage repository of business database objects from which object instances are able to be generated, which business database objects each have one or more attributes for which applicable data are able to be provided for a generated object instance;

     receiving, in a data processing system comprising at least one computer, a user selection of one of the business database objects, wherein generated instances of the selected object have data for attributes of the object; , and displaying a view of the one or more attributes associated with the selected business object;

     displaying[[,]] on a display device within the a view that includes: i) the selected business database object in a first portion of the view, ii) at least some of the attributes associated with the selected business database object in a second portion of the view, iii) a plurality of business objects each having associated attributes, wherein each of the business objects has a defined relationship to the selected business database object in a third portion of the view, and displaying within the view iv) at least some of the attributes for the plurality of related business objects in a fourth portion of the view;

     receiving in the data processing system a user selection of at least one of the displayed one or more attributes associated with the selected business database object, and a user selection of at least one of the displayed attributes for the plurality of related business objects, and adding the selected attributes to [[a]] an electronic business content structure of selected attributes;

executing a query of records in [[a]] an electronic database and retrieving, for each of the

records that meet the query, attribute data for each of the attributes in the electronic business

content structure; and

generating in the data processing system an output electronic file that the external

computer-implemented reporting application can use to generate [[the]] a report, the report to

include the electronic business content structure and the attribute data associated therewith.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a business content design

wizard assists in defining the electronic business content structure.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic business

content structure represents meta-data information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying on the

display device a view of a plurality of electronic business content structures and receiving a user

selection of one of the electronic business content structures to be included in a report.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising defining a

calculated field to be included in the electronic business content structure, wherein the calculated

field is associated with a function that takes one or more business object attributes as input, and

uses a formula to compute a resultant value for the calculated field based on the input.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure represents meta-data information.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the resultant value is included in the output <u>electronic</u> file.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising persistently storing the <u>electronic</u> business content structure in [[a]] <u>an electronic</u> database.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure is stored as an XML document in the <u>electronic</u> database, and wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure attributes correspond to tags in the XML document.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the database query is an SQL query that uses the concept of derived tables.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the output <u>electronic</u> file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the output <u>electronic</u> file that the external <u>computer-implemented</u> reporting application can use to generate the report further comprises transferring the output <u>electronic</u> file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external <u>computer-implemented</u> reporting application.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of providing object-based content to be reported in an external computer-implemented general reporting application, the method comprising:

receiving, in a data processing system comprising at least one computer, a user selection of a business database object having associated attributes, wherein generated instances of the selected object have data for the associated attributes; , and displaying a view of the attributes associated with the selected business object;

displaying[[,]] on a display device within the a view that includes: i) the selected business database object in a first portion of the view, ii) at least some of the attributes associated with the selected business database object in a second portion of the view, iii) a plurality of business objects each having associated attributes, wherein each of the business objects has a defined relationship to the selected business database object in a third portion of the view, and displaying within the view iv) at least some of the attributes for the plurality of related business objects in a fourth portion of the view;

receiving in the data processing system a user selection of at least one of the displayed attributes associated with the selected business database object, and a user selection of at least one of the displayed attributes for the plurality of related business objects, and adding the selected attributes to [[a]] an electronic business content structure of selected attributes; and

persistently storing the electronic business content structure in [[a]] an electronic database so that it can later be retrieved and used to generate an output file that the external computer-implemented general reporting application can use to generate [[the]] a report with current data.

19.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable medium with program instructions stored thereon that when executed perform the following functions for providing object-based content to be reported in an external computer-implemented general reporting application:

provides [[a]] an electronic storage repository of business database objects from which object instances are able to be generated, which business database objects each have one or more attributes for which applicable data are able to be provided for a generated object instance;

receives, in a data processing system comprising at least one computer, a user selection of one of the business database objects, wherein generated instances of the selected object have data for attributes of the object; , and displays a view of the one or more attributes associated with the selected business object;

displays[[,]] on a display device within the a view that includes: i) the selected business database object in a first portion of the view, ii) at least some of the attributes associated with the selected business database object in a second portion of the view, iii) a plurality of business objects each having associated attributes, wherein each of the business objects has a defined relationship to the selected business database object in a third portion of the view, and displays within the view iv) at least some of the attributes for the plurality of related business objects in a fourth portion of the view;

receives in the data processing system a user selection of at least one of the displayed one or more attributes associated with the selected business database object, and a user selection of at least one of the displayed attributes for the plurality of related business objects, and adding the selected attributes to [[a]] an electronic business content structure of selected attributes;

executes a query of records in [[a]] an electronic database and retrieves, for each of the records that meet the query, attribute data for each of the attributes in the electronic business content structure; and

generates in the data processing system an output electronic file that the external computer-implemented reporting application can use to generate [[the]] a report, the report to include the electronic business content structure and the attribute data associated therewith.

20.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 wherein a business content design wizard assists in defining the electronic business content structure.

21.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure represents meta-data information.

22.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 further comprising instructions that when executed displays <u>on the display device</u> a view of a plurality of <u>electronic</u> business content structures and receives a user selection of one of the <u>electronic</u> business content structures to be included in a report.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 further comprising instructions that when executed defines a calculated field to be included in the <u>electronic</u> business content structure, wherein the calculated field is associated with a function that takes one or more business object attributes as input, and uses a formula to compute a resultant value for the calculated field based on the input.

28.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 27 wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure represents meta-data information.

29.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 27 wherein the resultant value is included in the output <u>electronic</u> file.

30.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 further comprising instructions that when executed persistently stores the <u>electronic</u> business content structure in [[a]] <u>an electronic</u> database.

31.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 30 wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure is stored as an XML document in the <u>electronic</u> database, and wherein the <u>electronic</u> business content structure attributes correspond to tags in the XML document.

32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19 wherein the database query is an SQL query that uses the concept of derived tables.

34.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 wherein the output <u>electronic</u> file is an ActiveX Data Object Recordset.

35.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19 wherein generating the output <u>electronic</u> file that the external <u>computer-implemented</u> reporting application can use to generate the report further comprises transferring the output <u>electronic</u> file to a reporting-tool-specific interface component capable of plug-and-play interaction with the external <u>computer-implemented</u> reporting application.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a pictorial representation of the selected business <u>database</u> object and one or more of the related business objects.

37.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions that when executed display a pictorial representation of the selected business <u>database</u> object and one or more of the related business objects.